

May 5, 1943

Mrs. Avery Alexander  
3845a Humphrey  
St. Louis, Missouri

My dear Mrs. Alexander:

To report back to you on our action up to date -

Almost simultaneously with your class's report, Mrs. Marion C. Blossom, chairman of the Municipal Nurses Board, came to us and asked for aid. Homer Phillips is in a deplorable condition due to lack of appropriation, lack of staff, and lack of supplies. (Now do you see where the city suddenly developed a surplus instead of a deficit this year?)

We have a committee that is doing a first hand survey, going into conditions, supplies, city ordinances and all the contributing factors. Would your girls like to help take this one step further? Would three or four of them like to write a report of what they saw and their comparisons between the two hospitals - phrasing this simply and graphically? Send this report to me. Here in the League office we will make typewritten copies (omitting their names, though their reports should be signed); and when we go to consult with the Mayor, etc., we will take them with us.

I think it will make a huge impression on the powers-that-be if with the League's report, we can also have the girls', in their own words and mirroring their reactions. Don't you think this will be a fine addition?

We have talked to the Homer G. Phillips Superintendant and Supervisor of Nurses. They say the girls' statement is unfortunately accurate; and that things are even worse. They have no childrens' bed linen (it has been requisitioned but not delivered), not enough nurses (again, the city budget), and political appointees who do not do the cleaning. They welcome our taking these further steps.

Let me know if the girls will do this. And many thanks for your cooperation and for bringing this added evidence to our attention.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ralph W. Thayer

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